

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00517 222352Z

63

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /134 W

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P R 220742Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

ZX RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2149

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USUN NEW YORK 1300

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 517

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: A. SEOUL 484 (NOTAL)

B. SEOUL 485 (NOTAL)

1. VICE FONMIN YUN SUK-HEUN CALLEDHJN CHARGE MORNING JAN 22 TO DESCRIBE ROKG REACTION TO AUSTRALIAN INTENTION TO BEGIN TALKS LEADING TO EVENTUAL RECOGNITION OF DPRK AND TO REQUEST THAT USG "MOBILIZE ALL RESOURCES" TO PERSUADE AUSTRALIA NOT TO MOVE PRECIPITOUSLY.

2. YUN SAID ROKG HAD BEEN "QUITE DISTURBED" BY NEWS OF PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN MOVE. FONMI GHAD JUST GIVEN AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR LETTER RESPONDING TO FONMIN WILLESEEBS (REF B), AND ICKDOING SO HAD STATED THAT CONTEMPLATED AUSTRALIAN ACTION, IF ACTUALHC CARRIED OUT, COULD ENTAIL "SERIOUS RESULT IN AUSTRALIAN/ROK
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 00517 222352Z

RELATIONS."

3. YUN SAID THAT WHILE ROK WAS NOT HAPPY WHEN CERTAIN NEUTRAL NATIONS RECOGNIZED DPRK, AUSTRALIA HOLDS SPECIAL POSITION AS NATION WHICH HAD CONTRIBUTED TROOPS TO KOREAN WAR AND AS ONE OF ROK'S TRADITIONALLY CLOSE ALLIES IN ANNUAL UN EXERCISES. FONMIN'S LETTER, IN ADDITION TO THESE FACTORS, HAD POINTED TO VARIOUS INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO RELIEVE TENSION ON THE PENINSULA THAT ROKG HAS TAKEN OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS, CULMINATING IN RECENT CALL FOR NON-AGGRESSION PACT, AND HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THESE EFFORTS WERE NOT LIKELY TO BEAR FRUIT IF CLOSE ALLIES LIKE AUSTRALIA WERE TO FALL AWAY FROM ROK TEAM. LETTER HAD ACCORDINGLY STRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN WITH TIMING OF AUSTRALIAN MOVE, AND IN EXPRESSING HOPE THAT FRIENDLY ALLIES WOULD DO NOTHING TO ENCOURAGE BELLIVLRENT DPRK MOVES AT THIS CRUCIAL STAGE OF KOREAN HISTORY, HAD ASKED AUSTRALIA TO GIVE ROKG REASONABLE TIME IN WHICH TO ACCOMPLISH ITS OBJECTIVES.

4. YUN COMMENTED HE THOUGHT AUSTRALIANS WERE DELUDED IF THEY THOUGHT THAT BY RECOGNIZING DPRK THEY COULD SOMEHOW EXPOSE NORTH KOREANS TO MODERATING INFLUENCES. HE ADDED THAT FONMIN'S LETTER HAD INCLUDED INDICATION THAT IF EXPANSION OF TRADE WITH NORTH KOREA WERE AUSTRALIA'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE, ROKG WOULD SIT STILL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AUSTRALIAN TRADE MISSION IN PYONGYANG. WITH RESPECT TO AUSTRALIAN POLICY OF UNIVERSALITY, YUN SAID FONMIN HAD MADE POINT THAT AUSTRALIANS DID NOT APPLY UNIVERSALITY IN CASE OF EAYH GERMANY AVTIL AFTER TWO GERMANYS HAD COME TO TERMS.

5. YUN ENDED HIS PRESENTATION WITH REQUEST THAT USG MUSTER ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO PERSUADE AUSTRALIA NOT TO MOVE PRECIPITOUSLY IN DIRECTION THEY WERE TAKING.

6. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT THIS REQUEST TO DEPT, REMARKING THAT USG ALSO WAS CONCERNED OVER DEVELOPMENT BUT THAT, FROM ALL WE KNEW, AUSTRALIAN GOVT HAD APPARENTLY ALREADY MADE UP ITS MIND AND WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DISSUADE.

7. COMMENT: YUN SEEMED FAR MORE DISCOURAGED THAN AGITATED ABOUT THIS TURN OF EVENTS. HE DID NOT INDICATE WHAT "SERIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 00517 222352Z

RESULT IN AUSTRALIAN/ROK RELATIONS" MIGHT BE, BUT CONTEXT OF HIS REMARKS IMPLIED POTENTIAL UNWILMDNGNESS OF ROK TO INCLUDE AUSTRALIA AMONG CIRCLE OF CLOSE ALLIES IN FUTURE CONSULTATIONS AFFECTING PRIMARY ROK INTERESTS.

8. WHILE RECOGNIZING DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED, BELIEVE WE OWE ROK ONE TRY IN ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE AUSTRALIA AT LEAST TO DEFER

MOVE TOWARD DPRK.

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